AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A safety needle assembly for use with a subcutaneously implanted vascular access port, comprising:

a needle having a proximal end and a distal end;

a body attached to and in fluid communication with the proximal end of the needle; and

a base attached to the body;

wherein movement of the needle assembly from an insertion position to a protection position expunges fluid from the body through the distal end of the needle, creating a positive flush.

2. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the needle is angularly positioned relative to the distal end of the needle.

3. (Original) The needle device according to claim 1, wherein said distal end of said needle has a non-coring configuration.

4. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said base comprises a needle housing that surrounds the distal end of said needle and prevents movement thereof in a distal direction when the needle assembly is in the protection position.

5. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said base comprises a contact patch that maintains contact with a patient's skin during movement from the insertion position to the protection position.

6. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 5, wherein said contact patch conforms to the contour of the patient.

7. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 5, wherein said base further comprises an arm and a hinge, being respectively attached to an opposite end of said body.

8. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said body comprises a female portion and a male portion that collapse together upon movement from the insertion position to the protection position.

9. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein said male portion comprises a plunger element that expunges fluid from said female member when the needle assembly is moved from the insertion position to the protection position.

10. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein said male portion comprises at least one guide pin having at its distal end a locking portion.

11. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 10, wherein said female portion comprises a guide pin receptacle having a locking chamber that receives said locking portion of said guide pin, thereby preventing relative movement of said male portion.

12. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 11, wherein said locking portion comprises an expanded diameter and a contracted diameter.

13. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 12, wherein said locking chamber comprises a narrowed region that exerts external pressure on said locking portion, forcing said locking portion into its contracted diameter.

14. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein said female portion comprises a releasable interlock member that releasably locks said body to said base when the needle assembly is in the insertion position.

15. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 8, wherein said base comprises a contact patch that maintains contact with a patient's skin during movement from the insertion position to the protection position.

16. (Currently amended) The needle assembly according to claim 15, wherein said contact patch comprises a needle housing that surrounds the distal end of said needle and prevents movement thereof in a distal direction when the needle assembly is in the protection position.

17. (Original) The needle assembly according to claim 16, wherein said base further comprises an arm and a hinge, said arm being attached at one end to said male portion and at an opposite end to said first component, said hinge being attached at one end to said arm and at an opposite end to said female member.

18-58. (canceled).